

Amend the claims as follows:

8. (Thrice Amended) A cylindrical printing blanket comprising a seamless sleeve and a sheet-like blanket being bonded to an outer surface of said seamless sleeve,

said sheet-like blanket comprising in order a first fabric layer having a thickness in the range of 0.1 to 1.5 mm, a compressive layer, a fabric layer having a thickness in the range of 0.1 to 1.5 mm, and a surface printing layer, with said sheet-like blanket being bonded to a thread layer spirally wound on an adhesive elastomer layer around said seamless sleeve,

wherein said thread layer is wound on said sleeve mounted on a cylinder having a diameter that is 0.05% to 1.0% smaller than the diameter of a cylinder of a printing press upon which said cylindrical printing blanket is to be mounted, with the diameter of said sleeve being equal to or slightly smaller than the diameter of said cylinder of said printing press.

D<sup>2</sup> 14. (Amended) The cylinder printing blanket according to Claim 13, wherein said seam is sealed by filling with a compressive elastomer.

[ Add the following new claims: ]

-- 17. The cylinder printing blanket according to claim 8, wherein said first or second fabric layers may be comprised of multiple layers of fabric laminated together.

D2  
(concluded)

18. A process for manufacturing a cylindrical printing blanket, which comprises the steps of (1) preparing an elongated sheet-like blanket comprising in order a first fabric layer having a thickness in the range of 0.1 to 1.5 mm, a compressive layer, a second fabric layer having a thickness in the range of 0.1 to 0.5 mm and a surface printing layer, (2) cutting said sheet-like blanket into predetermined size, and (3) bonding said cut blanket onto an outer surface of a seamless sleeve, with said sheet-like blanket being bonded to a thread layer spirally wound an adhesive elastomer layer around said seamless sleeve, wherein said thread layer is wound on said sleeve mounted on a cylinder having a diameter that is 0.05% to 1.0% smaller than the diameter of a cylinder of a printing press upon which said cylindrical printing blanket is to be mounted, with the diameter of said sleeve being equal to or slightly smaller than the diameter of said cylinder of said printing press. --